



## Study Abroad FAQs

### 1. When should I study abroad?

Students can [study abroad](#) at almost any point in their college career, and you can study abroad more than once! As a first-year student, you can study abroad in January Term (J-term). Once you have sophomore standing you can study abroad for a summer, semester, or academic year.

If you are thinking about studying abroad for a semester, we encourage you to speak with a study abroad advisor early in your college career to ensure that you have the widest range of options available. While our January Term options change every year, our semester programs run consistently from semester to semester, allowing you to plan ahead.

For J-term 2024, St. Thomas has several courses that work well for first-year students:

- Theology 100 in Rome—THEO 100
- Brilliant! Exploring Art in London –Writing Across the Curriculum (WI) and Fine Arts core or Global Perspectives
- St. Thomas in Cairo – choose from a variety of core courses at the American University in Cairo!

[The Rome Empower Program](#) is designed for fall semester of your sophomore year. Information sessions for Rome Empower 2024 will be held throughout the fall 2023 semester.

### 2. How much does it cost to study abroad?

Studying abroad for a semester is comparable to being on-campus, and your financial aid can be applied to the program costs. Short-term study abroad programs (J-term and Summer) require a program fee, in addition to tuition. Students cannot use financial aid for January and Summer programs. [Additional scholarships](#) are available for both semester and short-term study abroad.

### 3. When should I start planning?

It is never too early to begin the planning process. Generally, 12-18 months in advance of when you are considering studying abroad is a good time to begin looking at programs and to start the application process. Students interested in studying abroad this January on a faculty-led program should start their applications now. The priority deadline for Theology 100 is September 8 and the final deadline for all programs is October 1.

### 4. Can I study abroad with my major?

Yes, St. Thomas has January Term and semester study abroad programs that work for all majors. While January Term is an option every year, semester programs can take longer to plan. We encourage you to start planning your study abroad experience as early as possible so that you have a wide range of options. For some majors, it's best to study abroad for a

semester your sophomore year while other majors are more flexible. Advisors in the Office of Study Abroad can help in developing a four-year plan that includes study abroad.

### **5. Is it safe?**

Your health and safety are our top priority. We thoroughly vet all our study abroad partner organizations to ensure they are maintaining the highest health and safety standards on-site. Additionally, the University's Travel Risk Advisory Committee is continually reviewing our program locations to ensure that we are sending students to locations that are deemed safe. Prior to studying abroad, the Office of Study Abroad will require you to attend an orientation that addresses travel-specific safety issues and concerns as well as ways to mitigate your risk. Upon arrival in your host country, you will also have an on-site orientation that will introduce you to site-specific safety information.

### **6. Where do I get more information about studying abroad?**

[The Office of Study Abroad](#) website has additional information on the process, deadlines, informational events, and scholarships!